

Government's Criminal Negligence and Callousness Multiply Miseries Of The Flood Victims

The whole of the Indo-Gangetic plain from Kashmir to Assam—some thirteen states including Gujrat and Rajasthan, the new entrants in the flood map of the country, are reeling under the furious frenzy of flood waters. Most of Western UP is under water, riverside districts and large areas in Bihar including its capital, Patna are in danger so also the delta areas in Orissa; the swelling waters of Jamuna not only rushed to urban Delhi, but flooded large tracts of land in Haryana. Malda, Murshidabad and Bankura districts in West Bengal were affected heavily along with parts of Assam earlier but now to add to the dimension, flash flood through release of lakhs of cusecs of waters from DVC and Kangsabati barrages has done unprecedented devastations in Midnapur, Hooghly, Bankura and part of Howrah districts, large parts of which have gone under water. The people of Burdwan, Nadia and 24-Parganas are counting their turns.

The newspaper reporters reaching the flood devastated areas in West Bengal before the government personnels did, are sending harrowing reports that in places thousands of people, kept unalert and left with no arrangement for evacuation by the government fell helpless victim to onrushing rolling cascade of waters that came in a flash.

So, flood, which has become quite a seasonal affair every year in this land even at a time when scientific development and technology can easily make it controllable and in point of fact there is an agency like National Commission on Floods set up some two years ago, and after so much talks of planning, development all that, after hundreds of crores of rupees spent on erection of dams, dykes and embankments all with the ostensible purpose of controlling flood and the cost of which is being met by taxes collected from the poor people, has taken the heaviest toll, so far, in a single year, in terms of people's life, property and standing crops whose estimate will surely vary from what the governments both at the Centre and in the states will decide to tell to what the people actually suffer.

Now, the real character and attitude of a government whether it is a civilised one and has the minimum sense of human values, the modicum of sense of responsibility to the people is determined

not by what excuses it offers for its incompetence or failures but by its real attitude and approach reflected in concrete measures and deeds

CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON FLOOD

"The Central Committee of the SUCI expresses its deep concern at the unprecedented flood that has engulfed vast areas of cities, towns and villages of Jammu, Haryana, Delhi, U.P., Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Assam and taken, yet an unknown number of human lives, caused enormous loss to standing crop, properties, domestic animals etc. While fully sharing the untold sufferings of the millions of our people, the Central Committee declares its firm resolve to stand by the side of the flood victims.

The Central Committee cannot but note with regret that even at this age of highly developed science and technology our country and the people are still left helpless at the mercy of perennial natural calamity of both flood and drought like the old days when we were ruled by the imperialists. And this is taking place despite the fact that during the last decades enormous amount of money has been spent from the state coffer, of course by taxing the people, in the name of flood control, erection of dams and providing water and power resources. But the net result has been a total fiasco so far as control of flood is concerned. The Central Committee is firmly of the opinion that the situation demands serious and critical re-assessment particularly in respect of the plans and measures hitherto resorted to with a view to putting an end to such calamities once for all.

Voicing the sentiments of the common people and sorrows of the flood victims the Central Committee vehemently criticises the utter negligence, callousness and almost criminal indifference of the governments both at the Centre and at the flood-affected states in respect of their abject failure to alarm the people in time and rescue them to safer places and also providing the flood victims even the minimum relief which any civilised government is committed to the people. The Central Committee is deeply grieved at the complaints of bureaucratic attitude, red-tapism, narrow, sectarian, petty-party interest and favouritism that have posed serious hindrance to proper distribution of relief.

The Central Committee demands immediate formation of all party relief committee both at national and state levels to meet the flood situation on war footing,

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towards tackling a problem that threatens the very existence of tens of thousands of people in a situation created either by natural calamity or something humanly contrived.

Judged in this perspective, a government worth the name, must have before it the twin objectives—one the immediate task and the other the long-term measures for controlling flood so as to make the river waters a bliss instead of being the curse to humanity. The long term objective must be of an integrated approach for a scientific solution of the problem of heavy siltation in the rivers causing thereby the raising of riverbeds by ensuring conservation of soils on a watershed basis in the catchment

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Com. Debaprosad Sarkar, MLA Protests Adjournment of W.B. Assembly Session

Calcutta, 8th Sept.

We cannot but strongly condemn the manner in which the Left Front Government has adjourned *sine die* the Assembly session when it ran for only four days after a lapse of more than four months, on the pretext of tackling the flood situation in the state and thus denying the elected representatives of the people of their minimum rights to give their opinion and viewpoints on such an unprecedented flood devastation and consequent grave problems in people's life. The government, no doubt, has set up a unique example of gross undemocratic approach and conduct.

There is reasonable ground for apprehension that the government has done this from a heinous

motive to conceal from the people and the world its dismal failure and criminal apathy in discharge of its responsibility to the people both before and after the flood havoc.

For, if the government was at all serious and had the minimum sense of responsibility to the people then certainly it would have accepted the just proposal of forming all-party committee for pulling all the resources and initiatives together so as to rush all possible help and assistance to the flood victims through an effective programme. But that they have not done.

Rather the government has imposed restrictions on dissemination of flood news in the dailies as well as in other media.

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DELHI ORGANISING COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT

New Delhi, August 6 : SUCI Delhi Organising Committee has issued the following statement to the press on the devastating flood situation in Delhi :

'We are deeply concerned with the deaths and the mounting suffering of the countless people in the flood-devastated villages and town areas of Delhi. Although the position is worsening every moment, it has been observed that the government relief and rescue work is too meagre and insignificant. The huge propaganda made in this regard by the

authorities is misleading.

'We urge upon the people to stand united and pressurise the Union Government for taking immediate and positive steps for fullest rescue and relief of the flood-devastated people.

'Taking advantage of the flood-situation, the businessmen in Delhi are charging higher prices for essential commodities. The government should take immediate steps to resist it and ensure availability of essential commodities to the people at the normal price.'

PRESS FREEDOM—HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE FROM THE PAST ?

During Emergency one of the many authoritarian measures Indira Gandhi took was to completely gag the voice of the press by imposing pre-censorship on all the newspapers, journals and magazines. Only doctored news and publications reached the people, all the voices of dissent were gagged. One of the promises with which the Janata Party fought the Parliamentary election was to restore the democratic rights and freedom of Press. Since they have come to power at the Centre, they have been busy giving assurances not only to restore freedom of the Press but also to convert radio and TV into autonomous bodies so that all parties can get an opportunity to freely place their viewpoints.

The Janata Party and its allies are making a great fanfare about their achievements in restoring democratic rights and freedom of the press. Formally pre-censorship has been repealed and the government is contemplating to have an autonomous TV and broadcasting set up within six months after carefully working out the new arrangements. Samachar, which had been formed during Emergency and held the monopoly of news under direct government control has been dissolved by the Janata Government and in its stead three news agencies, but each with a monopoly over a specific category of news, have been established. That is as far as Janata's so-called achievements go in this matter. But is the press really free and what has been the role of the press since Janata came to power? The press has been busy building up the image of those parties whom the bourgeoisie in their bid to establish two party parliamentary system has selected as alternatives, that is, Janata and Congress Party and CPI(M) as third alternative. As such the newspapers are continuously backing up these parties, giving them widest possible coverage and great publicity and presenting the entire news in such a way as to mould public opinion in favour of these parties. That is why Statesman the paper run by the Tata-Mafatlal monopoly houses which sacked its editor for supporting the United Front ministry in 1967 is now giving full support to CPI(M) and the government it leads in the State. Honesty and objectivity are quite absent in our press not to speak of their ethical standard. For the same press which was so vociferous just after the emergency in condemning Indira Gandhi and clamouring for her punishment is already busy in building up her image as an alternative to Janata and has made her again emerge as a political force particularly in the face of growing disintegration of Janata party. All the countless instances of most brutal waves of terror and oppression let loose on democratic movements and just demands of the people and the countless firings on innocent people by the police are actually played down by the press. A different and quite distorted appearances of these news the press are bringing out instead of playing their due role in mobilising public opinion against such police oppression which is surpassing all previous records, so as to create pressure on the government for stopping this highhandedness. On the other hand revolutionary politics and viewpoints are completely blacked out by the press. Not only this, bourgeois press is systematically blacking out all the viewpoints and activities of our party SUCI. This they are doing to translate into their guiding policy the class design of the ruling bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie knows that the SUCI is the only party in the country that upholds the cause of the exploited people and stands

for their struggle against capitalist exploitation. That is why to them SUCI's revolutionary viewpoints and activities go against the very class interest of the bourgeoisie to install two-party system and confine the militant democratic struggle within the narrow confine of parliamentarism, reformism. The press is therefore blacking out SUCI's viewpoints and activities, for example, even such large gatherings organised by SUCI on 24th April and 5th August scarcely get a mentioning in the press. As for Panchayat election in West Bengal, people could not even know by reading the newspapers that SUCI was participating and with a considerable force at that. Similarly, regarding Assembly election in Assam, it was only after two of SUCI's candidates had been victorious that people came to know about SUCI's participation in the election. Patchy references about SUCI's views and activities that do occasionally appear in the papers are mostly out of context, irrelevant or distorted, meant to confuse the people, rather than to inform them. Does this speak of a free press? Has there anything in common with the concept of freedom of press judged even in the light of bourgeois interpretation? It is clear that though pre-censorship has been repealed, self censorship has taken its place instead which is even more deceptive and dangerous than pre-censorship. The same applies to radio and TV as illustrated once again by a recent experience. A talk on family planning and the role of Trade Unions in that matter had been invited by the radio from Comrade Fatick Ghosh, General Secretary of West Bengal State Committee of UTUC (Lenin Sarani). On receiving the script of the talk the radio authorities proposed alterations as would have completely washed out the scientific content of the speech which was of course unacceptable and

so the speech was not broadcast. This reminds us of a similar incident during the days of United Front in 1967 when the speech on the occasion of 1st May of the then State Labour Minister, Comrade Subodh Banerjee was not broadcast on the radio for the same reason. So we find that whichever party may be at the Center whether the Janata or Congress, it makes little difference so far as this censoring is concerned.

Yet Mr. Desai claimed recently to some foreign journalists that the Janata Government has restored full freedom of expression and that there was no kind of pressure, direct or indirect on newspapers. Equally the CPI(M) is certifying the Janata and claiming for themselves. But what is actually going on everywhere in the whole country in the name of freedom can be well illustrated by some examples. According to a report, the Bihar Union of Working Journalists, the most representative organisation of the journalists in that State was complaining recently that the ministers have launched a big offensive to subvert press freedom and are trying to buy up newsmen not only with wine and jobs to their relatives but even with cash while 'offending' journalists are being intimidated and their relatives if they happen to be Government servants are harassed. Critical journalists received threats from the Chief Minister and the Agriculture Minister, Kapildeo Singh even threatened to send goondas to their offices of the two leading dailies, *Indian Nation* and *Aryavarta* to teach them a lesson. The same papers also had been deprived of Government advertisements last winter because they had published an infamous episode in which that minister's name had been linked up! And everybody knows stoppage of Government advertisement may plunge a paper into serious financial trouble. A journalist, for example, who used to write critical articles and had been offered a job as a correspondent in

a Calcutta daily did not ultimately get it because the management is said to have been cautioned. Worst of all, the Government is said to have dossiers prepared on 'critical' journalists who do not toe the exact Government line in order to start a campaign of character assassination if other means should fail. In Punjab a number of newsmen have been told by the Akali-Janata coalition Government directly and indirectly how displeased the Government is and how outrageous their reports are. The state public relations officials have started to object even to reporting of discussions in the State Cabinet on the plea that such reporting harmed the interests of the State. An Akali legislator even threatened some newsmen that their hands would be "chopped off if they do not stop writing against the Akali Government." In West Bengal recently Mr. Promode Dasgupta, CPI(M) Secretary of West Bengal and the chairman of the 'Left Front' committee openly reprimanded a vernacular daily for circulating some opposition viewpoints with the argument that as they do not represent the majority of the people there was no need to publish these things. This vernacular paper has projected CPI(M) since the last parliamentary poll as an alternative party to Congress and during the last Assembly election it even projected CPI(M) as the only alternative to Congress Party in the state and is still giving overall support and coverage to CPI(M). In tune with the wishes and class designs of the bourgeoisie that paper is however completely blacking out SUCI's activities and viewpoints and even the speeches of SUCI's MLA's do not get any coverage. But when from their own basic class interest a paper publishes some views of some bourgeois opposition parties like Janata or Congress, even that is too much freedom to CPI(M)'s taste. Concerning news about the flood

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SUCI meeting on 31st August

Reflected the spirit and upheld the cause of the Martyrs of the Food Movement of 1959

Among the historic mass movements in our country since Independence, the food movement of 1959 in West Bengal holds a particular significance for our toiling people. On the 31st August that year thousands of hunger marchers from different parts of the State, particularly its rural belts, assembled in Calcutta to form a sea of demonstrating masses demanding food in their struggle for survival and protesting against high price-rise of foodstuff and other essential commodities. The caretaker of the capitalist state, the then Congress Government, replied to this demand with a brutal and most atrocious lathi-charge killing 80 people (according to official admission) and injuring thousands more that day. There has been no trace of about 200 lives since the incident. The coercive arm of the state had cracked down in unprecedented repressive measures in the wake of that historic movement. Thousands of people, and leaders and workers of the political parties had been arrested prior to the 31st and in the following days.

But that could not undermine our people's courage, militancy and determination. Despite weakness in leadership the movement continued to gather momentum, for it actually marked the outburst of the simmering discontent and hatred of the people against the ruthless capitalist exploitation, which had come to be triggered over the issue of food on that historic day of the 31st August. But most regretably, the dominant section of the United Left leadership of the movement failed abjectly to discharge the historic responsibility of giving an organised shape to the mass discontent. On the contrary, they were afraid of the militant mood of the people and readily applied themselves to curb

the militancy of the growing movement, and to channelise it instead along a reformist course with a view to cashing on the people's anti-Congress mind in the electioneering game of the parliamentary politics. As a result, in spite of the tremendous sufferings and sacrifices by our people, the movement could not be developed into an organised and protracted struggle against the Government and be led to its logical culmination; even the demands over which the discontent had burst out were not fulfilled. Our Party, guided by the great leader of the proletariat **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** had pointed to the path along which the movement could be led to its logical culmination.

But the dominant section of the United Left leadership had turned down all our proposals time and again. The historic food movement of 1959 brought into relief the two parallel political lines in the Left and democratic mass movements in our country. In fact, two such lines have been persisting in all such movements since Independence—the revolutionary mass line pursued by our Party and the social democratic line pursued by the so-called Left parties.

The Martyrs' Day observed on the 31st August this year in memory of those who fell victim to the brutal repression and atrocity committed on our people by the Government during the food movement of 1959 has brought into sharp focus the fundamental difference between the two parallel political lines. Many of the parties which constituted the United Left leadership of that movement are now constituents of the 'Left Front' Government led by the CPI(M) in West Bengal. This Government discharged its duty by arranging a formal State function on the 31st August this year to pay what it terms 'homage' to the martyrs. And it sought to make no difference between the participants of that blood-bathed movement

and the then ruling party, the Congress, which had dipped its hands in the blood of the martyrs. Our Party reminded the 'Left Front' Government of the decision of the then United Left leadership to erect a permanent martyrs' column under the auspices of the United Committee and suggested formation of a Joint Committee comprising all forces, who had participated in that historic movement, to decide and conduct a programme for observing the Martyrs' Day in a befitting and dignified way that would be paying the genuine homage to the memory of the martyrs. But the Government turned down our proposal refusing to honour political significance of the occasion and the historic duty it bestows upon us today. These two parallel political lines have led to two parallel observances of the Martyrs' Day this year. The 'Left Front' Government avoided the masses and held a State function at the Subodh Mallick Square in a decorated pandal which was raised to protect the 'homage'-payers from the torrential rains. This is the course they took in paying respects to the martyrs and fulfilling the historic responsibility which devolves upon them as participants of the historic food move-

ment. Our Party held a mass meeting at the Saheed Minar Maidan in blinding rains calling upon the public at large to uphold the cause for which the martyrs laid down their lives and to build up mighty mass movements conducive to the anti-capitalist socialist revolution which alone can bring an end to the miseries of our people and emancipate them from exploitation of all sorts.

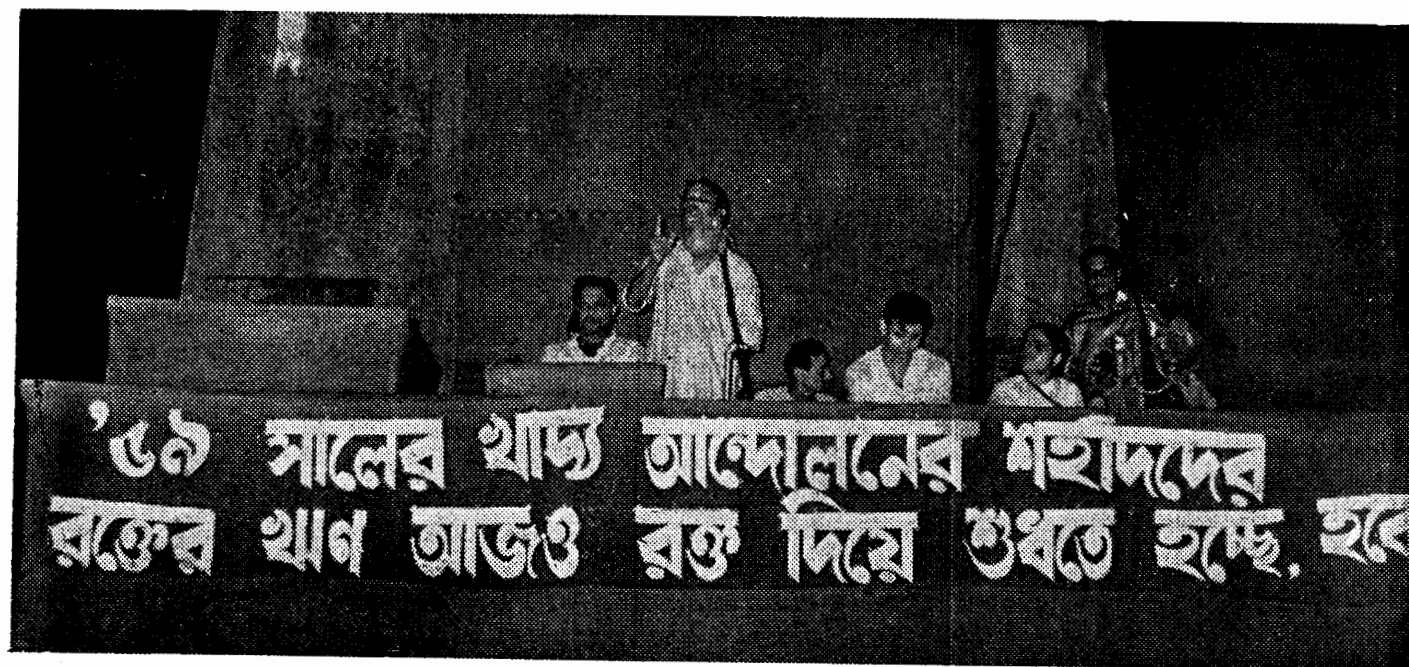
Incessant rains throughout the day caused immense hardship to the people who came to attend the meeting. Several processions of the toiling people came to the Saheed Minar Maidan braving this inclement weather. Thousands of people from all walks of life joined the meeting and stood in rapt attention throughout the proceedings in rain and mud. That indicates the growing mood of our people, the politics they want to know and follow, and the path and leadership they now look for.

The proceedings began with the internationale sung by the DYO music squad. Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta Secretary of the West Bengal State Committee of our Party, who presided over the meeting, explained the context under which the meeting had been organised by our Party. He narrated our proposal to the Chief Minister of the CPI(M)-led 'Left Front' Government and the refusal by the latter to adhere to the decision of the then United Left leadership and carry forward the political task of organising democratic mass movements conducive to the revolutionary aspirations of the people. He said that we did not associate ourselves with State function because the Government had refused to honour the erstwhile decision of the United Left leadership and had invited even the Congress against whose anti-people policies and oppression the movement was directed then.

Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Member of the West Bengal State Secretariat of our party, then moved the resolution which read:

"This meeting held under the auspices of the West Bengal State Committee, SUCI pays

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On the dais: The leaders of the West Bengal State Committee in the Martyrs' Day meeting on 31st August at Saheed Minar Maidan. Inscription in Bengali on the dais: People are paying with their blood and will have to pay more the debt of blood of the Martyrs of 1959.

FLOOD

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areas of rivers causing floods. This includes a comprehensive planning covering the entire river system through proper irrigation and drainage, adequate arrangement for conservation of rain waters for use in drought prone areas, controlling and moderating flood as also river training measures. The Central Government has announced that a sum of Rs. 700 crores will be spent in the coming five years for flood control measures. But if it means repetition of the same kind of 'wisdom' and efficiency involving almost the equal amount spent over last 27 years, people's miseries will not end but will rather perpetuate.

But what the people is concerned most is about the government's immediate doings in the rescue of the flood victims and helping them to stand on their own legs again. For this what is essential is to combine all the collective efforts of the political parties and organisations as also gearing the entire governmental machinery in discharge of the supreme task of the moment. Dependence on the bureaucracy grown up with its inveterate anti-people attitude and the expertise to cover up its criminal negligence of duty to the people can not exonerate the government from the sin it is committing to the people thereby.

People are concerned with what the government actually does and not what its ministers are saying after aerial surveys or at meetings with the bureaucrats and press briefings. But in case of Delhi where even the government claims that the people, were at least evacuated to safer places, the claim is high-pitched. Nowhere the government has come up to the modest expectation as to its sense of responsibility to the people.

In West Bengal the 'Left Front' Government has perhaps outdone its counterparts not only in

criminal irresponsibility but in evil-designed moves and steps. First, immediately after flood havocs in Bankura, Malda and Murshidabad districts, the government imposed censorship on the flood news to be given by local administration. Through a government circular the Chief Secretary was entrusted to give the news on behalf of the government. Secondly, the people of the three districts Midnapur, Hooghly, Bankura and part of Howrah who became victims to flash flood due to release of waters from DVC and Kangsabati Project were neither alerted nor were there any arrangements by the government for their evacuation. Thirdly, government's response to this gigantic problem is perfunctory to say the least. It has turned down the proposal of the opposition parties for forming All Party Committees for relief works. Fourthly, public complaints are there that distribution of relief is being done from petty party sectarian attitude. Fifthly, the Chief-minister is browbeating the newspapers for their objective reportings on the loss of life, malfunctioning of government administration and discrimination in relief distribution. Sixthly, in a bid to shut out its dismal failures and incompetence, the government has also adjourned the Assembly session on the plea of relief works although it was convened after the flood havoc. Seventhly, it has not yet declared the worst hit districts as flood hit areas and is undermining the loss of lives, thereby shirking its full responsibility for the economic rehabilitation of the people of these areas. Eighthly, it has flatly refused to institute a judicial enquiry into the charges of criminal neglect to peoples' safety by the district administrative authorities. And lastly it has now made collection as also distribution of relief donations even by political parties and organisations conditional on prior permission from police and district administrative authorities. In such an extremely trying situation, our party was

Magnificent response to AIDSO's movement in West Bengal

That there is a mounting resentment in West Bengal against the present anti-people and non-Left direction in education policy of the 'Left Front' Government, is an undeniable fact. In the name of the educational reform and the radicalisation of education this 'Left Front' Government in West Bengal has now decided to make

the first to go to the people of the state for all out mobilisation of resources and building up collective efforts to stand by the millions of flood victims. Not only in West Bengal but in other states our party Comrades took up the supreme task of the moment with due initiative and courage. Party has appealed to all our units, supporters and sympathisers to rise to the occasion to stand by the people in distress in all these states. In West Bengal party's relief teams are working round the clock in all the flood affected districts. Party's collection drives for relief materials have received magnificent response from the people both in the cities and villages. Our party has conveyed revolutionary greetings to the people for this. Party has called upon the people of these thirteen states to develop collective initiative and courage to meet the situation bravely. Love for the people and the country has no meaning if we fail to rise up to the occasion. From the sense of our most solemn responsibility to the people as a party of the revolutionary proletariat we are very much in the thick of people's collective endeavours to grapple with the situation. We call upon the people to join their efforts with ours and demand of the governments both at the Centre as also in the states to take up this cause not in words but in right earnest on war footing and shoulder the full responsibility for all-round relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected people.

English and the mother tongue optional in the Degree Courses, abandon English in the Primary Course, restrict the higher education, diminish the number of seats in schools and crush the student movements by sending police into the premises of the educational institutions. On the other hand, the autonomy and the democratic rights of the educational institutions curtailed by this Government on the plea of democratisation of education, have not yet been restored.

Besides, as a result of the recent catastrophic flood in many districts of the State, millions of people including thousands of students have become homeless.

But even a minimum relief has not yet been provided to the flood-victims.

In this situation, the West Bengal State Committee of the All India DSO has decided to launch a State wide student movement with the following demands:

- 1) English and mother tongue should be taught as compulsory subjects at the degree level.
- 2) Admission to all students must be guaranteed at all levels by scrapping the seat restriction scheme.
- 3) Immediate announcement of the date of democratic elections to the educational bodies of the universities must be made.
- 4) Police must not enter into the educational institutions under any pretext.
- 5) The tuition and examination fees of the students of the flood affected areas should be exempted and the dates of the ensuing examinations are to be postponed.

With these demands DSO organised three massive student deputations to the Vice-Chancellors of the Calcutta, Burdwan and North Bengal University. On 8th September last, nearly four thousand students of Calcutta and Suburban districts rallied at Calcutta University lawn. The brief meeting there was presided over by Comrade Dipankar Roy,

President, West Bengal State Committee, and was addressed by Comrades Bhaskar Gupta and Debasish Roy. Comrade Sanjit Biswas, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, read out the memorandum which was later handed over to the Vice-Chancellor. Comrade Asit Das Das explained the justification of the demands.

After that students marched toward the Assembly House to meet the Chief Minister with the demand for providing adequate relief to the flood victims on a war-footing, formation of unofficial all party enquiry committee, to find out the causes of this devastation and for compensation to all the affected people.

But astonishingly enough, Mr. Jyoti Basu was so busy as to refuse to meet the deputation and accept the memorandum. On 4th September, at the call of AIDSO more than two thousand students of Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura and Purulia Districts submitted a memorandum to the Registrar of Burdwan University (in absence of the Vice-Chancellor). Before that, a meeting was held at Town Hall maidan with Comrade Tamashree Chatterjee in the chair. Comrade Dipankar Roy was the main speaker. Comrades Laxminarayan Sinha, Pulak Roy, Bhutnath Mahato, Bhanu Sarkar, Partha Kundu, Dipen Some also spoke.

On the same day more than four thousand students rallied at North Bengal University under the auspices of the Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Malda and West Dinajpur District Committees of AIDSO and submitted a memorandum with the aforesaid demands to the Vice-Chancellor. Mr. Pravat Ghosh, Vice-Chancellor of the North Bengal University, addressed the student gathering and appreciated the DSO's endeavour to solve the present crisis in the sphere of education. Besides, a meeting was held

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Call of 5th August

In our last issue we published the news of a few Memorial meetings, in memory of our beloved departed leader, teacher and guide **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, held throughout India. We could not publish all and so we are covering the rest in this issue.

Madhya Pradesh

At Sagar, a memorial meeting was organised on 22nd August by the Sagar Unit, SUCI. On this occasion a Quotation Exhibition was arranged together with a Book Stall. This aroused great enthusiasm among the people who showed greater interest to know the teachings of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**—they purchased books, went round Quotation Exhibition and left the Exhibition place overwhelmed with the thoughts and teachings of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, the great leader of the proletariat.

Comrade Shankar Singh was the main speaker at the meeting. Addressing the gathering Comrade Singh upheld the teachings of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** and said that the bourgeoisie tied down in ever deepening crisis is resorting to more and more fascist measures as its inevitable course in this third phase of a acute general crisis of world capitalism. The democratic norms and principles which the people had established during the anti-imperialist freedom struggle eroded steadily after the Independence—whatever little administrative neutrality was there is now yielding place to administrative fascism.

Comrade Singh urged upon all to strengthen SUCI, the finest creation of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** to hasten the process of revolution and ensure the emancipation of the toiling people from the clutches and tentacles of exploitation of all sorts.

BIHAR

Singhbhum

5th of August was observed in a fortnight long programme between 12. 8. 78. and 25. 8. 78. in

different parts of Singhbhum District of Bihar through mass meetings, group sittings, ideological campaign etc.

Memorial meetings were held at Tata, Mosabani and Narsingarh. Comrade Hiren Sarkar, member of the Central Committee of SUCI presided over these meetings.

In the meeting held at Tata, Comrade Shankar Singh, member of the Central Committee addressed the gathering as the main speaker. At Mosabani Comrade N. R. Singh, member of the Bihar State Committee and at Narsingarh, Comrade Durga Dash were present as the main speakers.

In his long analytical speech Comrade Shankar Singh dwelt on the teachings of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, his invaluable contributions to the treasury of Marxism-Leninism in all spheres of human activities like science, epistemology, ideology, culture, ethics etc.

His unique place in history, said Comrade Singh, will be remembered not only for his revolutionary genius in integrating and concretising the general principles of Marxism in the concrete conditions of Indian situation as also for its further elucidation and elaboration but for the new height to which he brought it to fill the gap that existed in many vital aspects in the post-Lenin period.

Comrade Singh upheld the teachings of **Comrade Ghosh** on the importance of the correct base political line, higher proletarian culture, ethics and morality. He called upon all to join forces with the SUCI and hasten the revolutionary struggle for the emancipation of the oppressed masses from the yoke of capitalism.

Bokaro

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day which falls on 5th August was observed at Bokaro Steel City on 17th August with great enthusiasm and solemnity after a week long preparation and extensive ide-

ological campaign.

People representing all sections of the toiling masses came in large number to attend the meeting.

Comrade Hem Chakraborty, Secretary of Dhanbad District Committee of SUCI presided over the meeting. Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee, member of the West Bengal State Committee, SUCI was the main speaker.

In his long analytical speech Comrade Banerjee said that without knowing and grasping the teachings of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** we shall not be able to solve any of the problems confronting our lives, national as well as international, in this third phase of intense general crisis of World capitalism.

None of our basic problems will be solved as we have been taught by our beloved leader **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, said Comrade Banerjee, without accomplishing the anti capitalist socialist revolution. But without establishing the leadership of the genuine working class revolutionary party over the masses the revolution cannot be made victorious.

Comrade Banerjee continued that people today are becoming apathetic to politics and political parties and leaders. The political, cultural behaviours and conducts of the leaders of the so-called left parties, are responsible for this. People have experienced that when in opposition even these parties conduct mass movements, raise many progressive slogans and at time of election propaganda make many tall promises to the people. But when they go to the government they, just like the bourgeois parties suppress people's legitimate democratic movements with the help of police and throw all their election promises to the dustbin. The CPI(M) is behaving in the same manner. It is today frantically trying to win the confidence of the bourgeoisie.

Concluding his speech Comrade Banerjee urged upon all to strengthen

How the Janata Government 'Restores' rights of working people and from whom it gets the friendly support

After much bungling the Janata Government declared its policy on bonus for this year which is nothing but adhoc extension of payment of minimum bonus of 8.33 percent for this year too. By repeating what it did in the last year, it has once more belied the expectation of the working people which it held out in its election manifesto.

Thus, it has not removed the other restrictions on bonus imposed during Emergency. Section 34 of the Bonus Act wiped out during Emergency still remains so. Not only, therefore, the government has not removed the restrictions put on the right of negotiation of bonus quantum by the trade unions accepted in the original Bonus Act of 1965 both in the private and public sectors and thereby maintaining the restriction on ceiling, it has even maintained the severe restriction on allocable surplus. Section 6(a) of payment of Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance of 1977 which gives long rope to the employers to manipulate the allocable surplus by deducting sums under the heads of development rebate, investment allowance or development allowance before determining the surplus is still there. The government has not even met its commitment to extend bonus to the employees of Railways, Post and Telegraph and other government undertakings.

The working people demand upward revision of the minimum quantum of bonus, abolition of ceiling restriction and the right to negotiate bonus SUCI, the only genuine working class party in our soil built up and reared by the revolutionary genius of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** to fulfil the cherished dream of the people and that is how we can pay our genuine homage to him.

Comrade K. P. Singh, a popular mass leader and Comrade T. K. Dey, General Secretary, Bokaro Ispat Central Workers' Union also spoke on the occasion.

quantum both in public sector and departmental undertakings as also in private sector establishments. They demand widest coverage and entitlement of bonus as deferred wages to all employees and workers. This is a just demand in view of heavy erosion in real wages over the years which is still continuing. By denying this right and not restoring at least those rights which were there before Emergency, the Janata Government shows that it merely follows the footsteps of the earlier Congress Government in its defence of the aggregate interests of the capitalist class. Is it for this reason that it now resorts to adhoc decision so as to get further time to bring the Boothalingam formula by the backdoor? That will mean virtual abolition of bonus. But the question is about the role of the central trade unions like CITU and others in this vital aspects of working peoples' just demands. Could the government go merrily by deceiving the people in this cavalier fashion without their tacit support and approval? Why did they not take the initiative to build up united movement to pressurise the government in removing the restrictions imposed during Emergency and for further improvement? By not developing the united movement CITU particularly has helped the Janata Government to escape its commitment to the working people. Not only this, when UTUC (Lenin Sarani) voiced the demand for improvements over the original Bonus Act, removal of restrictions imposed during

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Press is projecting the images of the parties chosen by the capitalist class as alternatives in Bourgeois Parliamentary Politics

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disaster according to newspaper report, the Chief Secretary of the West Bengal State Government has instructed the local administrative authorities through a circular not to issue any report on flood situation to the press and the people. According to the said circular only the Chief Secretary has been empowered to release any information regarding the flood situation in the state. Yet in such a calamity as a flood, involving millions of people, their lives and their future it is of utmost importance to keep the people well informed so that they can stand by the flood victims and come forward with their help. For this purpose it is the local administration which can best supply the information. What else is this measure other than simple censorship of flood news in order to cover up probable failure of the government in discharge of its duty and responsibility towards the people affected. Did not Indira Gandhi do exactly the same by imposing of pre-censorship during Emergency?

But what is the reason for these increasing restrictions on freedom, complete disregard for democratic norms and conduct and decay of ethics? The cause lies in the crisis-ridden capitalist system itself. During the early stage of capitalism which was based on free competition in the economic field the democratic superstructure was marked by wider democracy and free exchange of different views and ideas of different parties. At that time the bourgeoisie upheld the democratic rights and civil liberty. Thus, free discussion and debate of competing economic political, social ideologies and philosophies was an essential feature of democracy and found its reflection in the concept of freedom of press. The bourgeoisie also acknowledged the necessity and supreme importance of a free press as an organiser of public opinion and conscience against tyranny and injustice, against misuse of power by the rulers, as a champion of people's freedom against unjust rules and

called the press the 'Nation's conscience keeper' a 'sentinel of people's rights' according to the bourgeois concept of democratic rights and freedom. But today capitalism is in the throes of acute all-out crisis, in the third phase of general crisis of world capitalism. Free competition in the economic field has given way to increasing centralisation of economic and political power and regimentation in the cultural sphere at this phase of moribund monopoly capitalism. The bourgeoisie has turned out and out reactionary and in order to keep the tottering crisis ridden system in tact and themselves in power are increasingly curtailing the same democratic rights and civil liberties and trampling down all democratic values and norms which once they upheld. In a class-divided capitalist society the means of production as also state power are in the hands of the bourgeois class; hence they also monopolise press and other mass media. The bourgeoisie know that if the oppressed people become conscious of their historic role in the emancipation of society from capitalist exploitation they will sooner or later sweep them out from power. But this consciousness does not come automatically to the oppressed people. It comes from the noble ideology of scientific socialism and its kernel the high moral and ethical values that the revolutionary party of the proletariat alone can represent in this social process of transformation of society. To prevent this from happening they not only black out revolutionary politics and view points from the people through the press but try to hoodwink the people about the true cause of their problems. They confuse the issues and present the entire situation and happenings in the country in such a distorted way that the people cannot get at the true cause of the acute crisis in every sphere of life—economic, political and cul-

tural. Moreover, to break the moral back-bone of the people and thus prevent the rise of revolutionary ideas and morality and to divert the minds of the people they are spreading and actively fostering the most rotten type of degraded culture through mass media. Dishonesty, distortions and most unethical practices have become the common feature of the press. Although to a greater or lesser extent this has become a general feature of crisis-ridden capitalism throughout the world, in the western capitalist-imperialist countries still some standard is maintained in the press and democratic norms are not so thoroughly debased as they are in our country. Times and again **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, the great proletarian leader and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era has drawn attention to this difference in the national character of the bourgeoisie in India and in Western countries: "You must also take note of the particular characteristic feature of capitalism in our country Capitalism after it has reached the stage of imperialism is trampling upon the humanist sense of values, freedom of individuals and the principles of democracy which it once upheld. Now it is becoming more attached to bureaucracy, autocracy, coercive tactics and military jingoism and less and less to freedom and democratic principles".... This is a world-wide phenomenon "... But in India the disregard for all sense of values that we observe in almost every sphere of national life, particularly the corruption that is so rampant in trade, commerce and administration has no parallel even in the most hardboiled reactionary European capitalist imperialist country." The reflection of this can be found in the press, too, with its utter disregard for any norms and even minimum ethical standard. As far back as 1954, already a press commission report sounded a warning that

editors should resist attempts by newspaper owners to convert them into 'literary agents of the proprietor'. In a recent article published in a weekly journal of how editors are managed some editors recounted various instances, for reasons of their own of course, of arm twisting and different tactics by the monopolists and industrialists who own the papers, revealing the most shocking disregard for any trace even of democratic norms and ethics, or even the slightest consideration of people's interest. But even in a country like USA, which in the late President Eisenhower's own words is a nation run by a military business clique, the press still does observe a minimum standard of democratic norms and consideration of people's interest at times. Still some examples can be found which highlight the remnants of democratic tradition and democratic values, to mention a few examples the publication of the Pentagon Papers by New Times at the considerable risk of persecution or the objective reporting by Edgar Snow on China although he was not a communist. But in our country even this much is absent. This is because as **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** in his historic analysis has shown: Capitalism in our country grew in an extremely reactionary era of moribund capitalism and through compromise with imperialism and feudalism and not in an uncompromising revolutionary struggle against feudalism, religion and religious superstitions like Western capitalism. 'As a result, in our country, where the moral backbone of the people had been bent already under the injunctions of the Brahminical system, casteism, various religious superstitions and prejudices, movement against these in the national freedom struggle centering round the rise of capitalism brought about some changes in a section, but the trend could not advance very

far and flounder midway. Thus, the vices which had accumulated in the social life and which could not be eradicated because of the compromising nature of the national freedom struggle are manifesting themselves in such a strange manner after the establishment of the independent bourgeois state'.

Thus, whatever be the slogans of Janata Party or CPI(M) about restoration of democratic rights and freedom of the press, it is sheer bunkum, a complete farce. It is quite clear that such parties like, Janata, Congress, CPI(M) who are competing with one another to gain the confidence of the bourgeoisie are incapable of restoring democratic rights, norms and freedom of the press. Rather they even impose further restrictions because they all stand in defence of of crisis-ridden capitalist system and they suppress the legitimate democratic movements of the people. CPI(M) has today completely discarded the banner of leftism and democratic movements. But when a revolutionary party comes to governmental power in a bourgeois society it will encourage and actively foster democratic movements of the people and will itself uphold norms and values of democratic movements. Even in the past when organising some democratic movements with democratic slogans or revolutionary verbiages CPI(M) did so with the sole purpose of using the discontent of the people to grab governmental power through parliamentary means but not for restoration of democratic rights and freedom for the people. That is why today CPI(M) is not only openly discouraging democratic movement of the people but even suppressing them with the help of police and administration. It is SUCI alone which has consistently upheld the banner of leftism, democratic movements of the people and democratic norms and conduct during the time of united movement of left parties and during UF Government and now against the combined opposition of all

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SUCI's revolutionary line and the reformist line of others find their distinctly different reflections in two separate observances

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revolutionary homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives during the historic food movement of 1959. While recounting with respect the exemplary spirit of sacrifice and indomitable fighting zeal of the people even in the face of brutal oppression let loose by the then Congress Government, this meeting cannot forget that the dream and aspiration of the martyrs are yet to be fulfilled. This meeting recalls with pain that the level of democratic mass movement of our country could have been raised to a newer and significant height had not our suggestion i) to introduce all-out State trading including both wholesale and retail trading in foodgrains, ii) to give the mass movement an organised shape and iii) to build up People's Committees at all levels been turned down again and again by the dominant section of the leadership.

"This meeting cannot but take note of the fact that there were two distinct political lines within the movement itself—the revolutionary mass line represented by the SUCI, which sought to give it the shape of an organised and protracted battle conducive to the tasks of anti-capitalist socialist revolution and the social democratic line represented by the other so-called left parties which sought to confine people's grievances within the bourgeois form of agitational movements for using them as lever to come to governmental power.

"This meeting notes with serious concern that the 'Left Front' Government of the State, far from adhering to the pro-people policy pursued by the two United Front Governments of '67 and '69 that "police shall not interfere with the legitimate democratic mass movements" is out to discourage and even crush the very backbone of such movements trampling the glorious tradition of the historic food movement while still mouthing the slogan of leftism and all that.

"Even being fully aware that solution of fundamental problems of peoples' life cannot be made within the frame-work of the present capitalist system, this meeting cannot but note with dismay that the 'Left Front' Government is failing to provide to the people whatever relief it can. Let alone introducing all-out state trading in foodgrains, it has not even taken over the wholesale trading to keep up its promises, is allowing the black-marketeers, profiteers and the blood merchants with impunity to speculative manipulation of price of essential commodities, the entire brunt of which is being borne by the poor and middle class people and has not even contemplated to apply Essential Commodities Act to bring down the prices. Pursuance of non-left policies by the 'Left Front' Government and more particularly its failure to check the spiralling of prices, the power-crisis and adoption of an anti-people, reactionary language policy in the spheres of education have made peoples' life absolutely unbearable.

"This meeting regrets that the attitude of the 'Left Front' Government even in the matter of erection of Martyrs' Memorial Column far from reflects the wishes of the struggling people of West Bengal. This meeting cannot forget that it was the decision of the United Left leadership of the historic food movement to construct a permanent martyrs' column under the auspices of the United Committee to commemorate this occasion. The 'Left Front' Government has not only not come forward to ensure participation of all the political forces that jointly led that movement in the matter of deciding the entire programme from the beginning to the end, but even rejected our proposal to form a Joint Committee for that purpose. And what is more, it has invited even those forces, in the name of State Function, whose hands were

stained with the blood of the martyrs. This meeting welcomes the decision of the Party, true to the teachings of historic food movement, not to associate itself with the typically formal State Function.

"This meeting, therefore, very strongly feels that mere erection of martyrs' column minus this political perspective and with all the pledges of the movement remaining unfulfilled, is no way to pay homage to the martyrs. This meeting is fully convinced that paying tribute to the martyrs really entails upon all of us the great responsibility of upholding the banner of real leftism by strengthening the legitimate democratic mass movements by all means and paving their way to anti-capitalist socialist revolution by isolating the opportunist social democratic leadership which led to the failure of that movement and establishing in its stead, in the interest of future movements, a real revolutionary leadership.

"This meeting calls upon the people of West Bengal to rise to the occasion by upholding the revolutionary teachings of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, the great leader of the proletariat to organise the people in their own instruments of struggle built up on the edifice of higher culture, remain unflinching to the correct base political line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution being led by the real revolutionary leadership."

After moving the resolution Comrade Ranjit Dhar said: The two parallel observances of the Martyr's Day this year in two different ways and atmospheres, and from two angularities clearly demonstrate who has been pursuing the correct revolutionary line and upholding the banner of the historic food movement of 1959. Food was not the only issue over which that movement had grown—the people had burst forth time and again against the Congress Government over the various problems confronting their life. The Congress

looked to these movements as a 'law and order' issue. Today the CPI(M) led 'Left Front' is in government in this state. But there has not been any solution to these problems rather these have multiplied several times. The constituents of this 'Left Front', when they were in the opposition used to tell the people that without movement there could be no solution to their problems. But now these parties are discouraging movements. Not only that, this 'Left Front' Government does not hesitate to deploy the police forces to crush the legitimate democratic mass movements on the plea of law and order issue.

Comrade Dhar reminded the audience that there was no alternative to mass movements in the struggle for emancipation of the people. To strengthen the SUCI, the party founded by the great leader of the proletariat, **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, and uphold the correct base political line is the only genuine way to pay respects to the martyrs of the historic food movement of 1959.

Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee, Member of the West Bengal State Secretariat of our Party and Secretary of the Calcutta District Committee, paid revolutionary greetings to the members of the audience on behalf of the party for the way they had braved the most inclement weather and assembled under immense hardship. This meeting, Comrade Banerjee said, prove that the masses stand for struggle. They do not yield under any circumstances. Analysing the burning problems confronting the life of the people of the State, Comrade Banerjee said: The Power crisis has been crippling our life. The CPI(M)-led 'Left Front' Government, is blaming the power workers for it in the same way as the previous Congress Government did. This government has taken recourse to the heinous tactics of driving a wedge in the unity between the working class and the masses.

The 'Left Front'

Government has adopted a language policy whereby it has removed English at the Primary level and made it, as also the mother tongue, optional at the higher level. It is thus trying to abolish de facto the study of language itself and curtail the scope of higher education. There is no difference between the attitude of this Government and those of Janata and Indira Congress. The entire drive of the CPI(M) is to emerge as the third alternative of the bourgeoisie and to move to the Centre with the blessing of the ruling class.

Two parallel political lines in our country are now clearly visible—one is compromising, anti-revolutionary line and the other is the uncompromising revolutionary line. The people will have to choose between these two lines—one leading to stagnation and the other leading to the way out of stagnation. Our party has tried all along—when in the opposition as also when in the United Front Government to strengthen and develop legitimate democratic mass movements. The people should think over it. Comrade Banerjee urged the audience in the end, that there remains no other force today than the SUCI to lead the movements of our masses to its logical culmination, its historic goal of anti-capitalist Socialist Revolution.

Comrade Provash Ghosh, Member of the West Bengal State Secretariat of our Party, then addressed the gathering emphasizing that placing wreaths and thus paying homage to the martyrs did hardly make the sense worthy of the occasion if we failed to realise the nature of the problems facing the mass movements today and do not try to resolve them to advanced these movements onward.

Comrade Provash Ghosh said: In 1959 the historic food movement took place even though the Left parties were much less strong than they are at present. But today, though their strength has increased manifold and the CPI(M)-led 'Left Front' is in Government in West

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BONUS POLICY

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Emergency and the abolition of the so-called 'non-competitive' clause for the entitlement of bonus by the employees in public sector bodies and undertakings, the CITU leadership which calls itself the champion of workers' rights did not give effective support to this.

We may mention yet another important issue. The workers are fighting hard against the ill-designed move of the Janata Government to bring wage freeze by the backdoor under cover of a so-called 'income and wage policy.' For this, it set up the Boothalingam Committee. But sensing the strong reaction of the working people it has now changed its tactics with the tacit support and approval of 'friendly' CITU and other trade unions. The CITU leader Mr. Ramamurthy and others, in the talks with the government on 26th June, preceding their shameful withdrawal of the proposed strike of employees in the Public Sector bodies on 28th June, agreed to the government's proposal that the government would consult with them, the leaders of Central TU's, after formulation of the 'guide lines' on wage negotiations. The role of government's agency—Bureau of Public Enterprises in formulating the guidelines on wage negotiations was thus accepted by these leaders to the serious detriment of the right of negotiation of the employees' trade union organisations and thus to the trade union movement itself. The proposal is fraught with the danger of indirect imposition of wage freeze on the workers and employees. UTUC (Lenin Sarani) was not invited at the meeting of 26th June, obviously to avoid the embarrassment for the leaders of CITU and others. But the government tried to formalise this 'understanding' at a meeting of the

Central TU's on September 1.

UTUC (Lenin Sarani) made its stand amply clear by its open and strongest condemnation to this outright betrayal to the cause of the workers by these Central TU leaderships at the meeting of 26th. Comrade Pritish Chanda, General Secretary of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) who attended the meeting of September 1, naturally took up the cudgel on behalf of the working people and challenged the very intention of the government in setting 'guideline' and thus obstructing the freedom of negotiations. He questioned the need of consultations with the Central Trade Union after the guidelines were framed. Had all the Central Trade Unions rallied behind this resolute stand the whole theory of 'set guidelines' could be blown but in absence of that the government's stand could be scaled down to only this much that the 'guidelines' would be framed up after consultation with the Central Trade Unions.

The task at the moment is to strengthen the revolutionary trend within the working class movement which UTUC (Lenin Sarani) alone represents and this truth is vindicated in every test of concrete fact and field of fight.

Press Freedom

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other political parties. Oppressed people must realise that there is no other way for them to gain democratic rights than through democratic movements. We appeal to all freedom loving, democratic minded and oppressed people to strengthen SUCI and join in the democratic movements conducive to anti-capitalist revolution and on the basis of higher cultural standard in order to widen and expand the democratic movement for restoration, preservation and expansion of democratic values and rights essential for the revolutionary struggle for overthrow of the rotten capitalist system.

CPI(M)-Police combine attack SUCI workers

Calcutta, Sept, 14:

Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee, Secretary, Calcutta District Committee of SUCI, said in a statement issued to the press:

On 13th September, the police, instigated by the CPI(M), arrested SUCI organiser Com. Indra Bose on false charges and inhumanly tortured him in police lock-up.

It was with the same motive that the police ransacked the houses of Com. Chiraranjan Chakravorty, Secretary, Sarsuna Local Committee of our party and the Head Master of Shiksha Bharati Junior High School and Com. Dipak Das. With the same ulterior motive, the police also took away their clothings and threatened their relatives with dire consequences. A police

posting was put up in front of the house of Com. Chiraranjan Chakravorty. Today, on 14th September, while a peaceful demonstration organised by the SUCI was being staged in the morning in front of Thakurpukur police station in protest against this incident demanding immediate release of Com. Indra Bose, some CPI(M) workers, armed with lethal weapons, suddenly attacked the demonstrators with the police also joining hands with them. Even the female cadres alongwith Com. Amita Banerjee, Secretary, Behala Local Committee of SUCI, were not spared. Com. Swapan Chatterjee, one of the main organisers, was mercilessly beaten up. He was also arrested after he had fallen unconscious. Com. Asimesh Kar and

Com. Priyabrata Dutta were also arrested after they had been seriously injured.

While strongly condemning this incident, we hope the people at large and the honest workers of the CPI(M) would come forward in protest against this fascist onslaught let loose by a section of the CPI(M). We also demand immediate release of all the arrested organisers of the SUCI and forthwith withdrawal of all the false cases framed against them. Along with this, we strongly demand immediate withdrawal of arrest warrants issued against Com. Chiraranjan Chakravorty and Com. Dipak Das and exemplary punishment of the police officer and CPI(M) workers responsible for this heinous act.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT

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prevent out-break of epidemics and stop ruling party sectarianism in relief operation.

The Central Committee notes with satisfaction that different state units of the Party have by this time already seriously plunged themselves in relief operation standing by the side of the people and congratulates the people who have whole-heartedly come forward and extended their hands of co-operation to us by way of contribution of money, material, medicine etc. The Central Committee expresses its sincere praise for those people who have shown a fine sense of self-respect by refusing government help when the government failed in its duty to rush it in time despite all the resources that were at its command. It is really exemplary behaviour on their part when they also jumped into relief operations on their own initiative at this hour of greatest need of the afflicted humanity.

Magnificent response

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at the University lawn which was presided over by Comrade Ajit Roy and addressed by Comrade Rabin Samajpati, Vice-President, West Bengal State Committee, AIDS. Comrades Tarun Mondal, Goutam Bhattacharya, Gita Dey, Subrata Das, Tapas Chakravorty, Abdur Rouf Ahmed and Abhijit Roy also spoke.

ASSEMBLY

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Not only this, the chief minister has not kept secret his displeasure and impatience to whatever little news that are coming in the press reportings and is using his position to discourage the papers from doing so.

In such an extremely trying situation when there is no other means to get the voice of the people heard, the government moves further to deny the elected representatives of the people of ventilating people's needs and grievances by adjourning the session of Assembly for indefinite period.

31st August

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Bengal, there is no movement here. Our beloved leader, teacher and guide, **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** had exposed long back the real character of these parties and had pointed out that these so-called Left parties were in reality reformist petty bourgeois parties which had actually been undermining the mass movements from within. Our great leader had shown that the living soul, the Kernel of the revolutionary politics was its noble ethics and culture. But these so-called Left parties lack this base of culture and ethics. So, if they gain in strength, it will spell harm to the country. But the party, may be it is a small party now, which has this base of noble culture and ethics will gradually gain in strength, and be able to advance the mass movements onward. Our Party SUCI, guided by the teachings of **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**, has been continuously gaining in strength following the scientific course of growth. Our pledge today is that we shall fulfill the unfulfilled task of the martyrs and lead the anti-capitalist Socialist Revolution through to success.

The resolution was unanimously adopted at the meeting which concluded with the DYU squad singing the song composed on our great leader **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh**.

Editor-in-Chief—NIHAR MUKHERJEE